

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12-26, 28-30 and 43 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 6 and 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide sequence, which encodes a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A coryneform bacterium transformed with an isolated cstA gene comprising a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The coryneform bacterium according to claim 9, wherein the cstA gene is over-expressed by increasing the copy number of the cstA gene or by operably linking a promoter to the cstA gene.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The shuttle vector Escherichia coli DH5 α phamcr/pEC-K18mob2cstAexp deposited as DSM 13671.

Claims 12-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): A coryneform bacterium comprising a vector which comprises a polynucleotide according to claim 5.

Claims 28-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 33-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof which encodes the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 38 (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 200 to 2515 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 39 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of:

- i) a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or
 - ii) a DNA fragment of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1,
- wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 39, wherein the polynucleotide is a primer or a probe.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A bacterium transformed with the isolated polynucleotide of claim 5.

Claims 42 and 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented): A bacterium transformed with the isolated polynucleotide of claim 38.

Claim 45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any one of claims 5, 8, 37 or 38.

Claim 47 (canceled)